



## City of Tacoma

Mayor Marilyn Strickland

April 25, 2012

Governor Chris Gregoire  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Gregoire:

On behalf of the Tacoma City Council I respectfully request that you veto Section 4 of ESHB 2823. This section permanently shifts revenue from privatized liquor stores from local government to the State. When the voters considered Initiative 1083, they were repeatedly told the initiative not only protected revenues for local government, but that there would be additional funding for local law enforcement as well. Permanently diverting this revenue to the State breaks faith with the voters.

As the State has struggled with budget shortfalls in recent years, the City of Tacoma has consistently taken the position that we understood the need for the State to shrink and curtail programs and to temporarily consider all revenue sources, including some that traditionally were used by local government. We have always been willing to be a partner with the State so we could all get through this prolonged economic crisis with minimal damage to our communities.

Section 4 of ESHB 2823 changes this relationship. By permanently diverting this revenue source the Legislature has gone beyond just partnering with local government to get through the 2011-13 biennium and appears to have seized an opportunity for future revenue growth for the State.

In Tacoma, we know our budget for the next biennium will also be difficult. I expect the State is not out of the woods either. The partnership between local government and the State will need to continue as we work through these challenges together. It will be more difficult to do as a result of the permanent diversion of this voter-approved local government revenue.

Please veto Section 4 of ESHB 2823. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Strickland  
Mayor